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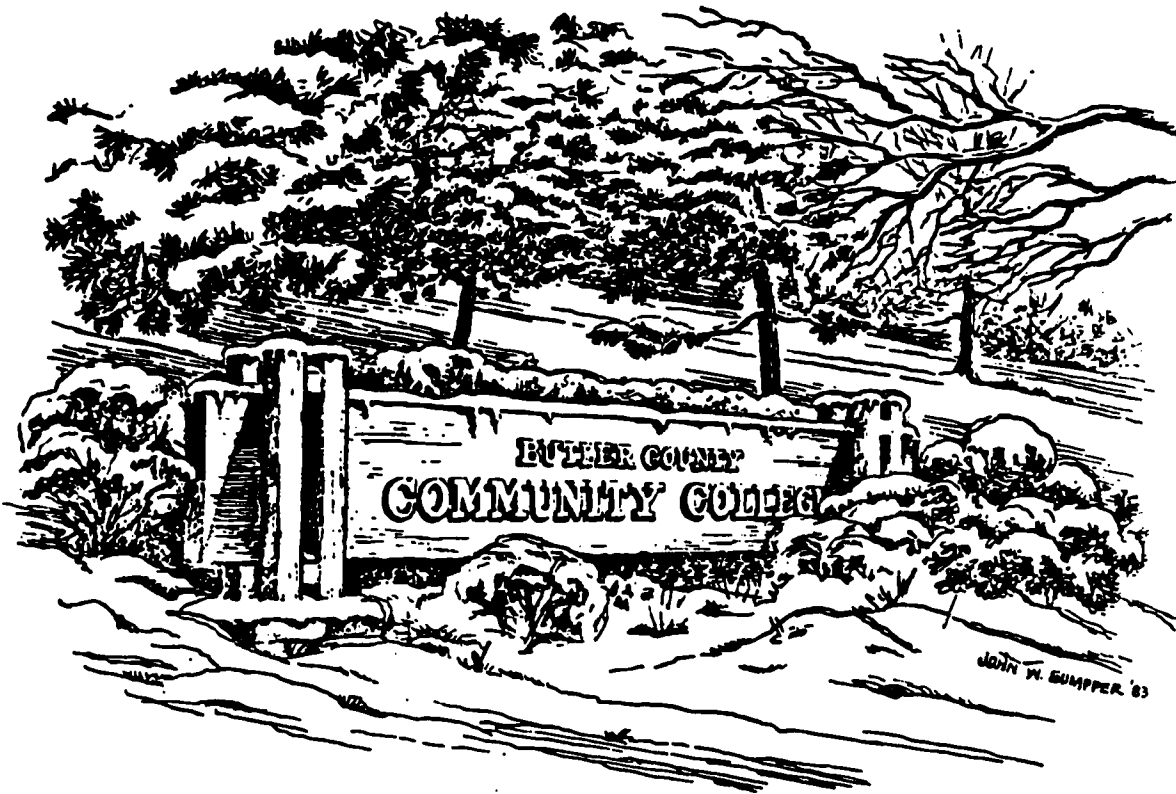
ABSTRACT

In order to determine the reasons for student attrition at Butler County Community College (BCCC), a questionnaire was sent to each of the 188 students who were enrolled in the fall 1984, spring 1985, or fall 1985 semesters who did not return the following semester. After phone and postcard followups, an 80% response rate was achieved. Study findings included the following: (1) attrition rates were 3.7% in fall 1984 and fall 1985, and 15.5% in spring 1985; (2) 51% of the non-returning students were female and 49% were male; (3) the most commonly cited reason for not returning was "transfer," followed by "other" (which included reasons such as graduation, joining the military, and pregnancy), "moved," "marriage," and "found employment"; and (4) the General Studies Program, the Business Administration Program, and the Biological Science Program had the highest rates of attrition. The survey instruments are appended. (EJV)

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BUTLER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STUDY OF ATTRITION (FULL-TIME STUDENTS)

FALL 1984
SPRING 1985
FALL 1985

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By:

LISA M. OLSZAK-McCLAINÉ
AUGUST, 1986

JC 860 470

**BUTLER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDY OF ATTRITION (FULL-TIME STUDENTS)**

**FALL 1984
SPRING 1985
FALL 1985**

INTRODUCTION

For the purpose of this study, attrition has been defined as any student who attended Butler County Community College during a given semester and did not return the following Spring or Fall semester (excluding graduates). The students used for the study were those attending Fall 1984, Spring 1985, and Fall 1985 semesters.

PROCEDURE

The College Computer Center provided a listing of attrition students for each of the semesters studied. During May 1986, a survey was sent to each of the students (See Appendix I--Fall 1984 Survey, Appendix II--Spring 1985 Survey, Appendix III--Fall 1985 Survey.) After a two week period, all of the students who did not return their surveys were phoned. Survey information was gathered over the phone for those who were reached. After the first series of calls a reminder post card was sent to the students not yet contacted. Lastly, two additional phone contacts were attempted. An 80% response rate was achieved.

RESULTS

Table I summarizes the survey results while Table II represents student attrition by program.

Table I: A total of 188 students were surveyed, with 151 completing the survey for the combined three semesters. For each semester an attrition percentage is given; for Fall 1984 and Fall 1985 the percent is 3.7 with Spring 1985 at 15.5. The number of males versus female attrition is 49% versus 51% respectively. In the area of Credits Earned, the number of students not returning is lowest in the 0-18 credit area (first semester attended). All other semesters have almost equal rates of attrition (increasing slightly as the student gains more credits).

The most popular reason for not returning to BCCC is transfer. Most of the students surveyed who indicated "transfer" as their reason for not returning were pleased with their experience at BCCC and had enrolled at the College with plans to transfer. The second most popular reason chosen for not returning is "other." However, 26 of the 33 students for spring 1985 reported graduating during Summer semester 1985. (The listing from the computer center was unable to sort out summer

graduates). Additional reasons under the "other" selection range from joining the military to pregnancy. One person mentioned that the timing of course offerings was not right for her. Other more popular reasons for not returning are: moved, marriage and found employment.

Table II: This table represents attrition by program. The General Studies program (100), Business Administration program (205), and Biological Science program (206) have the highest percentage of attrition.

SUMMARY

By far, the most popular reason for not returning is transfer. The majority who transfer, planned to do so. Survey participants indicated choosing a major, staying close to home, and to get credits to transfer as the most popular reasons for beginning at BCCC and then transferring.

Butler County Community College
 Study of Attrition (Full-time Students)
 Fall 1984, Spring 1985, Fall 1985

TABLE I

SEMESTER	Total Full-time Students	Students Graduating This Semester	# Possible Returning Students*	Total Attrition	% Attrition	Students Surveyed	Male	Female	Credits Earned				# Completing Survey	Reasons For Not Returning . . .												
									0-18	19-35	36-53	53+		Academic Difficulties	Dissatisfied With Course(s) Content	Dissatisfied With Instructors	Transportation Problems	Financial Reasons	Health Reasons	Found Employment	Tired of College	Marriage	Moved	Transferred	Family Problems	Other
FALL 1984	925	65	860	32	3.7	32	16	16	10	5	7	10	25	1	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	3	2	15	1	5
SPRING 1985	832	195	611*	95*	15.5	121	60	61	8	30	26	29 ²	98	1	5	1	2	4	0	7	1	6	8	50	1	33*
FALL 1985	978	53	943	35	3.7	35	15	20	10	5	12	9	28	1	2	2	1	1	0	3	0	3	3	14	0	5
TOTAL	2,735	313	2,414	162	7.6	188	91	96	28	40	45	48	151	3	8	3	3	8	0	12	1	12	13	79	2	43

*For the Spring 1985 group of students, 26 reported graduating during Summer 1985. Therefore they are not considered attritions. They are included under "other" in the "reason for not returning section."

²Does not include the 26 students who reported graduating during Summer 1985.

Butler County Community College
Attrition by Program (Full-time Students)
Fall 1984, Spring 1985, Fall 1985

TABLE II

SEMESTER	PROGRAM	PROGRAMS																										TOTALS					
		001-Clerk Typist	003-Drafting Tech	005-PN	011-Retail Merch.	018-Food Service	100-General Studies	101-Humanities	102-Elem. Educ.	103-Sec. Educ.	104-Mathematics	205-Business Admin.	206-Biological Sci.	207-Physical Sci.	208-ADM	301-Accounting	302-Business Mgt.	303-Computer DP	304-Arch. D&D	305-Elec. Tech.	306-Machine D&D	307-Park Mgt.	308-Exec. Sec.	309-Ind. Mgt.	310-Civil Tech.	311-Retail Merch.	312-Medical Sec.		313-Legal Sec.	318-Food Services	320-Metrology	321-Drafting Tech.	330-Agribusiness
FALL 1984	# In Program	3	0	43	1	1	233	6	24	10	29	62	13	11	47	56	97	59	28	30	9	27	45	5	6	15	23	6	15	25	4	0	925
	# Attrition	0	0	0	0	0	17	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	32
SPRING 1985	# In Program	5	0	28	2	2	213	3	23	7	26	63	14	2	47	53	90	44	16	25	6	29	47	1	6	13	25	5	11	22	4	0	832
	# Attrition	0	0	4	1	0	28	0	4	0	10	11	5	1	0	5	8	2	3	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	0	95
FALL 1985	# In Program	9	1	47	1	3	289	4	27	12	18	63	14	3	43	47	79	44	18	21	6	26	59	1	6	17	30	15	20	48	6	1	978
	# Attrition	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	1	0	0	5	3	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0



College Drive, Oak Hills, Butler, PA 16001-1203

Phone (412) 287-8711

Dear Former BCCC Student:

Please answer the following questions and return the form to us as soon as possible. Your participation in the following survey is very important to future planning at Butler County Community College

YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY. YOU WILL NOT BE IDENTIFIED.

NAME _____ MAJOR: _____

You attended BCCC during fall semester, 1984, but did not return the following semester (spring, 1985).

1. Which of the following describes your circumstances:

- Withdrew during the fall semester, 1984.
- Completed fall semester, 1984 (but did not return spring semester, 1985).

2. Why didn't you return to BCCC for the spring semester, 1985?

- Academic difficulties.
- Dissatisfied with course(s) content. Describe _____
- _____
- Dissatisfied with instructor(s). Describe _____
- _____
- _____

- Transportation problems
- Financial reasons
- Health Reasons
- Found employment
- Tired of college
- Marriage

- Moved
- Transferred to another college or educational institution
- Family problems
- Other, Explain _____
- _____
- _____

3. Do you plan on returning to BCCC at sometime in the future? yes no unsure

4. What was your original reason/goal for enrolling at BCCC? _____

5. Did you complete this goal? yes no If not, why? _____

6. Did any single thing about Butler County Community College particularly please or displease you while you were enrolled? _____

If you have any additional comments, please use back of form.

Thanks!

Lisa M. Olszak McClaine
 Lisa M. Olszak-McClaine
 Planning Assistant
 287-8711, ext. 267

APPENDIX II



College Drive, Oak Hills, Butler, PA 16001-1203

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NAME _____ MAJOR: _____

You attended BCCC during spring semester, 1985, but did not return the following semester (fall, 1985).

- 1. Which of the following describes your circumstances:
___ Withdrew during the spring semester, 1985.
___ Completed spring semester, 1985 (but did not return fall semester, 1985).

2. Why didn't you return to BCCC for the fall semester, 1985?

- ___ Academic difficulties.
___ Dissatisfied with course(s) content. Describe _____

- ___ Dissatisfied with instructor(s). Describe _____

- ___ Transportation problems
___ Financial reasons
___ Health Reasons
___ Found employment
___ Tired of college
___ Marriage

- ___ Moved
___ Transferred to another college or educational institution
___ Family problems
___ Other, Explain _____

3. Do you plan on returning to BCCC at sometime in the future? ___ yes ___ no ___ unsure

4. What was your original reason/goal for enrolling at BCCC? _____

5. Did you complete this goal? ___ yes ___ no If not, why? _____

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Thanks!

Lisa M. Olszak-McClaine
Planning Assistant
287-8711, ext. 267



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YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY. YOU WILL NOT BE IDENTIFIED.

NAME _____ MAJOR: _____

You attended BCCC during fall semester, 1985, but did not return the following semester (spring, 1986).

1. Which of the following describes your circumstances:

- Withdrew during the fall semester, 1985.
Completed fall semester, 1985 (but did not return spring semester, 1986).

2. Why didn't you return to BCCC for the spring semester, 1986?

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Dissatisfied with course(s) content. Describe
Dissatisfied with instructor(s). Describe

- Transportation problems
Financial reasons
Health Reasons
Found employment
Tired of college
Marriage
Moved
Transferred to another college or educational institution
Family problems
Other, Explain

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